



SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 4.1.09
BILL NO. HB411

Senate Local Government Committee, Senators:
Esp, John (R) (Ch)
Essmann, Jeff (R) (V Ch)
Barkus, Gregory (R)
Erickson, Ron (D)
Gallus, Steve (D)
Gillan, Kim (D)
Jackson, Verdell (R)
Laslovich, Jesse (D)
Tutvedt, Bruce (R)
Staff: Leanne Heisel

April 1, 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 411. The Clark Fork Coalition is comprised of 1,500 members who are dedicated to protecting and restoring the Clark Fork watershed. We believe that creating a "Flood Damage Mitigation Assistance Program" within the DNRC is a positive and proactive step to better protect Montana's streams, communities, and waterside property owners.

Passing HB 411 will designate federal stimulus dollars directly to local governments, so that cities and counties may obtain technical and financial assistance, through grants and loans, to mitigate and prevent flood-related damage in rural or urban areas. Communities may use the DNRC-administered funds to protect property, people, and our valuable rivers and riparian areas, including actions like:

- repairing and constructing flood control structures
- mapping channel migration zones and flood plains to ensure future development is safely situated
- compensating landowners for easements or acquisition of property in the flood plain
- restoring flood plains and rivers to create buffers for communities from future floods

We hope you'll pass HB 411, as it's a "win-win" for Montanans and our rivers and streams. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brianna Randall
Water Policy Director
brianna@clarkfork.org

PO Box 7593
Missoula, MT 59807
406/542-0539 Phone
406/542-5632 Fax